Industries of Onattukara.

174. ✻ **MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) whether the Department of Industries has investigated into the possibilities of developing the industries of Onattukara (Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Mavelikara taluks) by the conversion of raw materials into finished goods ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the reason of such investigation and the further steps taken in pursuance of the same ; and

(*c*) whether the question of opening an Industrial School has been considered by the Department and the Government ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is found, as a result of the investigations, that there is much scope for the development of the screwpine industry. There is also a grant-in-aid screwpine mat weaving school in the Mavelikara taluk. To make the best use of these mats, a certain person in Trivandrum started a factory for making embroidered screwpine articles which find a ready sale in Bangalore, Madras and Bombay, thereby using a lot of mats made in the above taluks. The Itinerant Weaving Party of the Department of Industries camped at Karunagapalli for nearly a year and conducted a temporary weaving school and carried on demonstrations in weaving to popularise the industry in the locality.

(*c*) The question has been considered by the Department.

Cultivation of the Maruthuvamala Mampuram lands.

175 ✻ **MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a Duffadar in the office of the Conservator of Forests ;

(*b*) whether they are aware that the said Duffadar has been actually managing the affairs of the "Maruthuvamala Mampuram" property in Nedumangad taluk ;

(*c*) whether Forest Beat Guards are posted in the property to cultivate it ; and

(*d*) whether they are aware how the cultivation of the property and its improvements are carried on ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) No.

The Malaria Epidemic.

176. ✻**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that malaria is prevalent in the eastern *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Kottarakara taluks ;

(*b*) whether they are aware that the *pakuthies* where malaria is now widely prevalent border the reserved forests ;

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